



Attorney's Docket No.: 07402-039001 AF/280

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Carlson, et al. Art Unit : 2815  
Serial No.: 09/547,061 Examiner : Lourdes Cruz  
Filed : April 7, 2000  
Title : INSULATOR/METAL BONDING ISLAND FOR ACTIVE AREA  
SILVER EPOXY BONDING

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Correspondence relating to this application is enclosed.  
The required fees are computed below. Please apply any charges  
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Total

Claims	17	-	17	=	0	\$0
Independent	3	-	3	=	0	\$0
TOTAL FEE DUE						\$0

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/7/02



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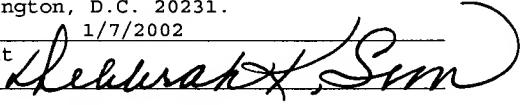
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**BOX AF**

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RESPONSE

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the following comments, which are responsive to the October 10, 2001 Final Office Action.

Response to the Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1-4 and 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,040,630 issued to Panchou, et al. The rejection asserts that Panchou allegedly teaches each element of the claims except for silver epoxy bonds, a photodetector, and an oxide containing island, which are allegedly well known in the art.

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The present invention is directed toward a semiconductor interconnection system having an insulating island configured to prevent the migration of a metal element from the bond to the contact. As seen in Figure 3, this is accomplished by placing the insulating island 324 between the bond containing the metal element 316 and the contact 306. Thus, any metallic element migrating from the bond is stopped by the island.

None of the cited art teaches or suggests an island for preventing metallic migration. The rejection again asserts that item 30 of Panchou is such an insulating island, and the present invention is not claimed in a way to distinguish from the island in Panchou. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. Claims 1 and 9 of the present invention require that the insulating island be configured "to prevent migration of silver/metallic substance" from the bond to the semiconductor die through the conductive contacts. This is distinct from the structure of the thermoplastic attachment film 30 disclosed in Panchou. Figure 4 of Panchou shows that the attachment film 30 has vias 34 for the bond element 14 to pass through. In Figure 4a, the bonds 14 are shown making physical contact with the conductive contacts 38. Thus, any metallic element in the bonds 14 are still free to pass through the conductive contacts 38 (See col. 5, lines 35-60), and in no way does the attachment

film 30 prevent migration of silver/metallic substance as required in the present claims. Thus, the structure of the insulating island which prevents migration of the silver/metallic substance makes the present claims distinct from Panchou.

In view of the foregoing distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 9 are patentably distinguished over the cited art. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, and 9 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 1 and 9.

Claims 2-4, 7-8, and 10-13 depend either directly or indirectly from one of the independent claims. Each dependent claim further defines the independent claim from which it depends. In view of the foregoing remarks regarding Claims 1 and 9, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-4, 7-8, and 10-13 are likewise in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request allowance of dependent Claims 2-4, 7-8, and 10-13.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5 and 6 are indicated to contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. In view of the foregoing remarks regarding the independent claims, Applicants

respectfully submit that Claims 5 and 6 are now in condition for allowance. However, Applicant reserves the right to rewrite Claims 5 and 6 in independent form.

Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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